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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /068 W
----------091950Z 088111 /47
R 091445Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9995
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
DOD WASHDC
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GERMANY
SACRECONCEN OFFUT AFB NEBRASKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1053

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SW, US
SUBJECT: JANUARY 5 INCIDENTS OVER THE BALTIC

REF: STATE 48985 (DTG 042304Z)

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR PRESENTED MFA LEGAL ADVISOR, BO JOHNSON, WITH INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL AS USG RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED BY SWEDISH CIVIL AVIATION BOARD INVESTIGATION GROUP. JOHNSON, WHO IS MEMBER OF INVESTIGATION GROUP, SAID HE WOULD PASS IT TO THE GROUP'S CHAIRMAN AND THAT IN HIS OPINION THE RESPONSES WERE ADEQUATE FOR THEIR PURPOSES.

2. JOHNSON SAID THE SOVIETS HAD NOT BEEN PUSHING HARD FOR A COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION GROUP'S WORK AND SEEMED RATHER RELAXED ABOUT THE MATTER AT THIS STAGE. HE ADDED THAT BALTIC FIR'S ARE FILLED WITH RECONNAISSANCE PLANES, "MOST OF WHICH ARE SOVIET." JOHNSON ALSO REMARKED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLICITY
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GIVEN RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE BALTIC, GOS IS ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE THE USSR AND FINLAND TO MEET IN THE EARLY FUTURE TO DISCUSS BETTER COORDINATION AMONG AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE IMPROVED FLIGHT SAFETY IN THIS ENTIRE AREA.

3. EMBASSY AGREES THAT CIVIL AVIATION BOARD, FOR PURPOSES

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OF PREPARING ITS REPORT ON US RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER
THE BALTIC, IS FOCUSING ON THE FIRST OF TWO INCIDENTS
WHICH OCCURRED ON JANUARY 5. THE FIRST TOOK PLACE AT APPROXIMATE-
LY 1005Z (1105 STOCKHOLM TIME). AS PREVIOUS REPORTING HAS
INDICATED, THIS FIRST INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN RIGA FIR
AND, FROM A JURISDICTIONAL POINT OF VIEW, DID NOT INVOLVE
SWEDISH TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITY. FOREIGN MINISTER SODER
ADMITTED AS MUCH IN HER JANUARY 19 STATEMENT TO THE
RIKSDAG. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT
IN ITS OPINION TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS INVOLVING US
RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OCCURRED ON JANUARY 5, THE
SECOND APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE FIRST. OUR
INFORMATION ON THE SECOND CROSSING, DESCRIBED IN
STOCKHOLM 184, CAME FROM THE SWEDISH DEFENSE STAFF WHICH
HAD REVIEWED RADAR SCOOPE FILMS OF TRAFFIC ON JANUARY 5
INVOLVING US AIRCRAFT. THESE FILMS WERE ALSO SHOWN TO THE
EMBASSY AIR ATTACHE. THE EMBASSY IS ALSO IN RECEIPT OF A
VOICE PRINTOUT OBTAINED FROM DANISH MILITARY SOURCES
WHICH INDICATES AN AEROFLOT PILOT REPORTING A CROSSING AT
APPROXIMATELY 1056Z (1156 STOCKHOLM TIME) BETWEEN A USAF AIR-
CRAFT AND HIS AIRCRAFT. IN CONTRAST TO THE FIRST CROSSING WHICH
CLEARLY TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE STOCKHOLM FIR, THE DEFENSE
STAFF FILMS INDICATE THE SECOND CROSSING OCCURRED ON OR
VERY NEAR THE BOUNDARY OF THE STOCKHOLM FIR. ALSO AS
REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, THE SOVIETS PROTESTED THIS SECOND
CROSSING TO THE GOS ON JANUARY 12. WHY GOS HAS CHOSEN
NOT TO FOCUS ON THE SECOND CROSSING, WHICH MORE CLEARLY
INVOLVES SWEDISH JURISDICTION, IS NOT APPARENT. ONE
PROBABLE REASON IS THAT THE ORIGINAL PRESS PUBLICITY
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FOCUSED ON THE FIRST INCIDENT AND NO MENTION HAS BEEN MADE YET
IN THE PRESS OF THE SECOND INCIDENT.
TERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, INVESTIGATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770376/aaaacoul.tel
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SW, US
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